



USDA – National
Agricultural Statistics
Service, Tennessee
Field Office

Debra K. Kenerson
Director



Cooperating with Tennessee
Department Of Agriculture

Ken Givens, Commissioner

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn> nass-tn@nass.usda.gov Phone 1-800-626-0987

Released: September 23, 2005 Volume 05 Number 19

Featuring:

September Crop Production State Veterinarian Advisory Slaughter Cotton Ginnings
Chicken & Eggs ARMS & CEAP Surveys Hay Directory

Farmers Remain Optimistic Despite Hot, Dry August

Tennessee farmers are optimistic that a prolonged dry spell during August will not be enough to drastically decrease yield expectations from the previous month. According to a September 1 Yield Survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office, expectations declined for most of the State's row crops from the August 1 forecast, but yields are still projected to be at or above average. At the end of the month, the remnants of Hurricane Katrina brought heavy rains and high winds to much of the Volunteer State, causing some crop damage but generally improving overall conditions. The September forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 124 bushels per acre, down 16 bushels from a year earlier; **Cotton**, 831 pounds per acre, down 69 pounds from last year's record but the second highest yield on record; **Soybeans**, 39 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from a year ago; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, down 20 pounds from last year.

Corn Production Down 19 Percent

The State's corn production is forecast at 69.4 million bushels, down 19 percent from 2004. Corn yields are expected to average 124 bushels per acre, 4 bushels below last month and 16 bushels lower than last year's record. This forecast, if realized, ranks among the top five historical yields. Acreage for grain is forecast at 560,000 acres, down 55,000 acres from 2004. Mostly hot, dry weather during August caused a reduction in yields, but helped advance maturity. Some fields sustained wind damage from Katrina, but the overall impact was minimal. As of September 4, the crop was rated in good-to-fair condition with harvest for grain underway on a limited basis, and harvest for silage about 75 percent complete.

Farmers Expect Record Cotton Production

Cotton production is forecast at 1.10 million bales, up 116,000 bales from last year and, if realized, a new State record. The State's cotton yield is forecast at 831 pounds of lint per acre, ranking second only to 2004's record of 900 pounds an acre. Planted area is estimated at 640,000 acres and producers expect to harvest 635,000 acres, up 110,000 from 2004. Dry August weather up until the last week of the month, took its toll on the cotton crop. Rains from the remnants of Hurricane Katrina appear to have come too late to benefit the crop and may have actually caused additional fruit shed. As of September 4, nearly a third of the acreage had open bolls with the crop rated in mostly good condition.

State Soybean Yield Down Slightly

Tennessee's soybean production is forecast at 46.8 million bushels, 3 percent below a year ago. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 39 bushels per acre, down one bushel from last month and down 2 bushels from 2004. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.20 million acres, up 20,000 from last year. August proved to be a very hot and dry month. A large percentage of the State's rainfall for the month came during Katrina's brief stay; consequently, the crop did suffer during August. Harvest is underway on a limited basis, and a third of the crop is already dropping leaves. Recent rainfall may help some of the later planted double-crop beans, but producers are concerned by the large amount of "pod shed" during the hot, dry spell of August. As of September 4, the crop was rated in good-to-fair condition.

Burley Production Down Nearly a Third from 2004

Tennessee's burley tobacco growers expect to produce 32.3 million pounds, unchanged from the August forecast but down 30 percent from 2004. Average burley yield is forecast at 1,900 pounds per acre, also unchanged from last month, but down 20 pounds from the previous year. Producers plan to harvest 17,000 acres, down 7,000 acres from a year ago. Dry weather during August caused yield reductions in some areas, but scattered showers in other areas, especially in the eastern portions of the State, helped the crop. As of September 4, burley harvest was 47 percent complete, fire-cured was 53 percent, and air-cured was 45 percent finished, all slightly behind normal. Tennessee's dark fire-cured tobacco yields are forecast at 3,000 pounds, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,700 pounds per acre, down 50 pounds from 2004.

Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, September 1, 2005, with Comparisons

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2004	Indicated 2005	2004	Indicated 2005	2004	Indicated 2005
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	11,000	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	615	560	140	124	86,100	69,440
Cotton ¹	lb.	525	635	900	831	984	1,100
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,900	1,850	2.50	2.60	4,750	4,810
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1.95	1.90
Soybeans	bu.	1,180	1,200	41.0	39.0	48,380	46,800
Tobacco, All	lb.	30.26	23.26	2,161	2,189	65,381	50,918
Dark fire-cured	lb.	5.72	5.72	3,115	3,000	17,816	17,160
Burley (31)	lb.	24.0	17.0	1,920	1,900	46,080	32,300
Dark air-cured	lb.	.54	.54	2,750	2,700	1,485	1,458
Winter Wheat	bu.	280	170	49.0	60.0	13,720	10,200
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	10,419,900	9,837,100
Corn for grain	bu.	73,632	74,318	160.4	143.2	11,807,217	10,638,661
Cotton ¹	lb.	13,057	13,673	855	782	23,251	22,282
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.92	82,391	76,068
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1,307.1	1,233.9
Soybeans	bu.	73,958	72,184	42.5	39.6	3,140,996	2,856,449
Tobacco, All	lb.	408,040	307,010	2,155	2,099	879,227	644,278
Dark fire-cured	lb.	11.73	12.47	3,167	3,186	37,151	39,725
Burley (31)	lb.	153.15	105.30	1,908	1,826	292,172	192,285
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.26	4.04	2,799	2,787	11,922	11,258
Winter Wheat	bu.	34,462	34,271	43.5	44.4	1,499,434	1,520,484

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

State Veterinarian Issues Advisory to Horse Owners

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee's state veterinarian is urging horse owners to be on the alert for the re-emergence of eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) and other mosquito-borne diseases including West Nile virus (WNV). "Outbreaks of viral encephalitis in horses are a seasonal occurrence due to the prevalence of mosquitoes this time of year," said Dr. Ron Wilson, State Veterinarian with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. "Horse owners should be aware of symptoms of viral encephalitis and consult their local veterinarian should their horse develop any of the signs associated with this group of diseases." Several states have seen cases of EEE in horses this season. Tennessee's only confirmed case this year was reported this week in Henderson County involving a quarter horse that died. Wilson says the disease warrants close monitoring because of the high mortality rate in horses. Mosquitoes feeding on infected birds and later transmitting the virus to susceptible horses generally cause outbreaks. The disease is relatively sporadic in Tennessee with only a handful of horses having contracted the disease in recent years. There have been no cases of equine WNV reported in Tennessee this year, but Wilson says the spread of WNV has heightened awareness and concern for other nervous system diseases in horses. The Department of Agriculture's Kord Diagnostic Laboratory in Nashville provides services for livestock owners and private veterinarians. For more information about EEE or other viral diseases in horses, contact the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, State Veterinarian office and diagnostic laboratory at (615) 837-5120.

Livestock Slaughter¹: Tennessee & United States, August 2004 and 2005

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Tennessee						
Cattle	1.1	1.2	1,000	1,118	949	954
Calves	0.1	0.1	56	57	569	531
Hogs	53	55	25,652	26,691	484	489
Sheep & lambs	0.6	1.0	55	76	87	78
United States						
Cattle	2,821	2,990	3,530,871	3,788,210	1,252	1,267
Calves	73	66	23,431	22,755	322	347
Hogs	8,722	8,983	2,287,070	2,358,233	262	263
Sheep & lambs	233	229	30,190	30,664	130	134

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to September 15, Crop Years 2002-2005

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
All Cotton				
AL ¹	3,150	---	---	---
AZ	12,300	14,650	25,250	12,800
AR ¹	3,150	---	---	6,800
GA ¹	21,150	---	12,800	---
LA	18,650	30,700	4,350	51,700
MS	45,650	54,250	13,200	19,350
NC ¹	100	0	---	---
SC	200	0	0	0
Tennessee ¹	---	0	0	---
TX	790,900	855,450	1,099,950	868,300
US	898,000	958,400	1,156,550	976,050

¹ Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins.

Layers & Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States and United States, During August 2004 and 2005

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000		1,000		Number	
Alabama	1,944	1,721	9,493	9,074	1,907	1,862
Arkansas	4,448	4,062	14,930	14,203	1,922	1,992
Georgia	10,918	9,617	20,054	18,849	2,084	2,058
North Carolina	3,277	3,458	10,757	11,061	1,962	1,971
All Other States ²	257,386	257,600	287,749	287,583	2,238	2,261
United States	277,973	276,458	342,983	340,770	2,198	2,219

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. ² Tennessee included in other states.

Surveys Measure Agricultural Chemical Use and Conservation Issues

To gather reliable, objective information about pesticide usage and conservation practices, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office will conduct the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) and the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) survey during the fall of 2005. These surveys will provide information on chemical applications, production practices, pest management, and conservation practices. "USDA has an obligation to provide reliable data on pesticide use and other production practices and these surveys give us the information necessary to do that," said Debra Kenerson, State Director. Kenerson added, "Accurate and complete responses from producers are essential to the success of the surveys. We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses and data about individual operations are used only in conjunction with information from other producers."

The agricultural producers selected to participate in these surveys will make an important contribution to the overall welfare of the U.S. agricultural community. All information gathered will be merged and used by commodity analysts, producer organizations, and others to benefit Tennessee farmers. Survey participants have an opportunity to set the record straight about issues that affect them, such as use of fertilizers and pesticides. One of the most important findings to emerge from previous surveys is that growers generally apply pesticides at rates considerably below manufacturers' maximum recommended levels.

Tennessee farm operators selected to participate in this year's surveys are being notified by letter, and interviewers will visit them personally to collect their reports at their convenience. USDA will use the results of the Agricultural Resource Management Survey to publish information on agricultural chemical usage and analyze commodity production costs and returns in a series of reports in 2006. Annual progress reports based on the results of the Conservation Effects Assessment Project survey will be published by the National Resources Conservation Service beginning this year. The Agricultural Resource Management Survey and the Conservation Effects Assessment Project are just a couple of ways that USDA and producers work together to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistical information and services that help keep U.S. agricultural and rural communities among the most robust in the world.

Tennessee Hay Directory Available

Nashville, TN - The "Tennessee Hay Directory," accessible via the Internet at picktnproducts.org or in print through local Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation offices, is available beginning Aug. 24.

The annual Tennessee Hay Directory is a listing of hay producers across the state and traditionally provides information by county and by farmer including hay type, quantity and whether the hay is available in round or square bales. Producers may also list hay quality, including percent of dry matter, protein and estimated total digestible nutrients (TDN). Any tested hay must be tested through the University of Tennessee Extension office. Farmers who list test results show potential buyers the high quality of their hay and it allows buyers to match hay to their animals' needs. For more information or for a printed copy of the directory, call TDA's Market Development Division at (615) 837-5160.